

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1766

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD EEWT BTIO RO
SUBJ: PREPARATIONS FOR CEAUSESCU VISIT: COMMERCIAL OVERTONES
REF: BUCHAREST 1538

1. DURING COURSE OF MARCH 17 MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR
DPM AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE CORNEL BURTICAL ADVISED
THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER MARGARITESCU WILL LEAVE
ON APRIL 1 FOR NEW YORK WHERE MARGARITESCU WILL COORDINATE
AND OVERSEE NEGOTIATIONS ON NUMEROUS EXPORT OR IMPORT CONTRACT
NEGOTIATIONS BEING CONDUCTED BY VARIOUS GOR DELEGATIONS THAT
WILL BE IN U.S.

2. PREVIOUSLY, AS MENTIONED IN REFTEL, MFT'S FOTA TOLD
COMATT THAT PURPOSE OF MACHINE BUILDING MINISTER AVRAM'S VISIT
IS TO ACT AS ADVANCE MAN FOR COMMERCIAL SIDE OF CEAUSESCU
VISIT AND ALSO TO PURSUE AND CONCLUDE COOPERATION PROJECTS
FOR INTEREST TO GOR.

3. COMMENT. IT NOW CLEAR THAT IN PERIOD IMMEDIATE PRE-
CEEDING CEAUSESCU VISIT VARIOUS ROMANIAN COMMERCIAL DELEGATIONS
WILL BE FLOODING U.S. IN MARCH 15 MEETING WITH CHEMICAL INDUSTRY
MINISTER FLORESCU, AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD THAT FOUR DELEGATIONS
FROM CHEMICAL INDUSTRY MINISTRY, REPRESENTING FTO'S DANUBIANA,
CHIMEXPORTIMPORT, ROMCHIM AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRAL FOR MEDICAL
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DRUGS, COSMETICS, DYESTUFFS AND LACQUERS ARE ALREADY IN U.S.
OR WILL BE LEAVING SOON FOR U.S. MEANWHILE, SIMILAR NUMBER
OF MACHINE MINISTRY GROUPS REPRESENTING FTO'S ELECTRONUM, MASIN-
EXPORT, INDUSTRIAL EXPORT, THE ROMANIAN COMPUTER INDUSTRIAL
CENTRAL AND THE MINISTRY WILL ALSO BE LEAVING SHORTLY FOR
U.S. WE ESTIMATE THAT CLOSE TO 60 GOR COMMERCIAL REPRE-

SENTATIVES WILL AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER BE IN U.S. FROM NOW THROUGH APRIL 18. (FOUR GROUPS ALSO GOING FROM LIGHT INDUSTRY MINISTRY).

4. IT APPEARS THAT BY SENDING THESE VARIOUS COMMERCIAL DELEGATIONS TO U.S. AT TIME WHEN CEAUSESCU'S PERSONAL ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON U.S., GOR IS MAKING CONCERTED EFFORT TO EXPAND TRADE RELATIONS WITH U.S. IN NON-TRADITIONAL MANUFACTURES AREA. WITH AVRAM RESPONSIBLE FOR COOPERATION PROJECTS AND MARGARITESCU WITH EXPORT/IMPORT CONTRACTS, GOR COMMERCIAL DELEGATIONS WILL BE ABLE OBTAIN FINAL APPROVAL TO SIGN CONTRACTS WITHOUT NEED TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM BUCHAREST. IT SEEMS THAT THROUGH THIS CONCERTED EFFORT, GOR IS SIGNALLING US THAT IT WISHES TO BE RESPONSIVE TO OUR COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE STRUCTURE OF OUR BILATERAL TRADE AND IT HOPES THAT WE WILL BE EQUALLY RESPONSIVE TO ITS COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE NEED FOR ANNUAL MFN RENEWAL AND ON EXPORT CONTROLS.
AGGREY

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